

production of other revenue in the two years, while the percentage on the exploitation of material by departmental agency was reduced from 55 in 1893-94 to 50 in 1894-95, which is in itself a satisfactory feature of the year's working.

128. The difference in the value of timber and other produce on hand at sale and forest depôts at the beginning and at the close of the year under report was :—

						Value of timber, &c.
						Rs.
On 1st July 1894	...	...	...	...	...	52,630
On 30th June 1895	...	...	...	...	...	58,068
In favour of the year						5,438

129. The outstandings on account of revenue have decreased from Rs. 33,942 at the commencement of the year to Rs. 4,214, while those due from contractors and disbursers stood as follows :—

On 1st July 1894	...	...	Rs. 1,02,138
On 30th June 1895	...	...	„ 52,586

130. All the Divisional Forest Officers, and especially Mr. Dalal in the Sukkur Division, have not been sparing in their efforts to recover the advances recklessly made under the Departmental system of working introduced in 1892. The balance still due from contractors and disbursers, however, is still high, and it is feared that one-third of the amount at least will prove a bad debt.

131. The results of the transactions of the two forest years 1893-94 and 1894-95 are compared below :—

						1893-94.	1894-95.
						Rs.	Rs.
Cash Surplus	...	...	...	...	...	2,20,782	2,62,066
<i>Add—</i>							
Value of Stock	...	...	...	...	...	52,630	58,068
Outstandings of Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	38,915	5,174
Total						3,12,327	3,27,308
<i>Deduct—</i>							
Outstandings and liabilities on account of contractors and disbursers.						1,02,138	52,586
Total net profit						2,10,189	2,74,722

The above figures speak for themselves and no comment is necessary.

CHAPTER V.

FOREST ADMINISTRATION.

132. The forest administration of the Sind Circle is not conducted altogether on the lines laid down in Government Resolution No. 7107, dated the 6th September 1892. The officer in administrative charge of the Circle is directly subordinate to the Commissioner in Sind, but the Divisional Forest Officer's relation with the Collec-

Government Resolution No. 7107, dated 6th September 1892, not applied wholly to the Sind Circle.

tors of districts are not on the same footing, for the simple reason that forest divisional charges do not coincide with the fiscal divisions. It was deemed expedient, therefore, after some correspondence with the Commissioner not to disturb the existing arrangements of keeping Divisional Forest Officers under the sole control of the head of the Forest Department.

133. The charge of the Circle and of the various divisions was held by the officers as detailed below :—

Officers in charge.				the officers as detailed below :—	
				{	The late Mr. Hexton from 1st to 27th June 1894.
					Mr. G. M. Ryan from 28th June to 24th September 1894.
					The late Mr. Hexton from 25th September to 10th October 1894.
					Mr. G. M. Ryan from 11th to 28th October 1894.
					Mr. F. R. Dasai from 29th October 1894 to 30th June 1895.
Circle ...	...	...	...
Sukkur	Division	...	...		Mr. B. H. Dalal, whole year.
Naushahro	do.	...	...		Mr. O. H. L. Napier, whole year.
Hyderabad	do.	...	...		Mr. Shaukiram P. M., whole year.
Jerruck	do.	...	...		Mr. G. M. Ryan, whole year.

134. Mr. Tuljaram Nihalchand, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, III grade, retired on the 1st January 1895 and Mr. B. G. Deshpande was transferred from the Southern to the Sind Circle under Government Resolution No. 2377, dated 23rd March 1895, reporting himself for duty on the 26th April 1895.

135. At the close of the year, there were in the Circle 22 executive officers in charge of ranges, 2 Rangers and 5 Foresters of whom were trained in the College of Science, Poona, and hold certificates. The Circle now supports 4 paid students, one of whom joined soon after the year closed. One private student, the son of a retired Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, holding a Ranger's certificate from the Dehra Dun Forest School, was appointed on the 28th June 1895 to take executive charge of the areas constituted Reserved Forests in the Ghorabari Taluka of the Karachi District under Government Notification No. 3436, dated 7th May 1895. No less than 13 range charges out of a total of 22 are held by Foresters who are imperfectly educated and who are incapable of carrying out the work which the improved management and treatment of forests devolves on them.

136. The Divisional Staff, being by no means strong, is hardly sufficient to keep pace with the routine work and is unable to minutely scrutinize the range accounts and returns. The Circle office is also numerically weak, and the clerks are often compelled to work from early in the morning till late in the evening to cope with their duties. The re-organization of office establishment is, therefore, a matter of urgent necessity. When every one has tried to do his best, it would be invidious to make a distinction, but the intelligence and diligence of Mr. Parmanand Udham, Head Clerk in the Circle office, merit special commendation.

137. The conduct of the subordinate establishment is reported by the Divisional Forest Officers to have been tolerably satisfactory, except in the Sukkur Division, in which the black list of the year is a very heavy one as will be seen from the following details :—

Conduct of subordinate protective staff.

Forester Sanwal Khan, on Rs. 20, was prosecuted for criminal breach of trust with respect to a sum of Rs. 1,222, and was convicted and sentenced by the Sessions Judge of Shikarpur to undergo two years' rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 1,000 or six months' extra imprisonment in default, and the sentence was confirmed on appeal by the Sadar Court.

Forester Isardas on Rs. 20, a trained officer, was reduced to Rs. 15, for conniving at unauthorized cultivation within forest limits.

Another trained officer, Ranger Mangharam, and Foresters Rupchand and Khanchand fell victims to the lax system of keeping accounts authorized under the "Departmental" system of working introduced in 1892 and were reduced, the first two to the lowest grade of Foresters and the last to that of Karkuns. Two Sub-Rangers and a Nakedar were dismissed for extortion and misappropriation of money, and another Sub-Ranger for laying a false complaint against his superior officer. A clerk was also reduced from Rs. 30 to Rs. 15 for insubordinate and insolent behaviour towards his superior, the Divisional Forest Officer.

The dismissals and degradations in other divisions were for habitual neglect of orders and duties and for gross carelessness.

138. It has been found necessary to punish severely, especially in the Sukkur Division, where great laxity of discipline prevailed before Mr. Dalal's time. *Quasi* judicial proceedings are invariably held before dispensing with the services of subordinates both in the upper and lower grades of the executive as well as protective staff.

139. The services of the following Range Forest Officers have been recommended for special mention in the Divisional reports:—

1. Ranger Metharam Deumal.
2. Forester Dalpatrai Jethanand.
3. „ Bulchand Parumal.
4. „ Kishindas Isardas.
5. „ Kauromal Nihalsing.
6. Acting Forester Rabu.

140. It is to be regretted that the Sind Forest Department lost by the death of Dayaram Meherchand, in a boat accident on the river, the services of a very hard-working and deserving officer.

Death of Range Forest Officer
Dayaram.

141. The actual expenditure on subordinate protective and office establishments is compared with the sanctioned grant in the following statement:—

Sanctioned and actual expenditure
on establishments.

Establishments.					Sanctioned grant.	Actual expenditure.
					Rs.	Rs.
Office ...	...	...	...	...	10,152	10,127
Protective ...	...	...	...	...	38,600	37,432
Total ...					48,752	47,819

142. Of Divisional Officers, Messrs. G. M. Ryan and B. H. Dalal are deserving of special mention. Mr. Ryan is a Services of the controlling staff. zealous and hard-working officer and takes an intelligent interest in every branch of his work. His management of the Jerruck Division was, as usual, excellent.

143. Mr. Dalal has had very arduous duties to perform during the year. The division he was in charge of—Sukkur—was very much neglected in his predecessor's time. Discipline was as lax as it could be, and corruption was rampant, and he set about his task with such untiring energy and quiet determina-

tion that it is now about the best administered in the Province. Although comparatively a junior officer of the Provincial Service, he came to Sind with an established reputation for intelligent and hard work, and his transfer from the Central Circle occasioned an expression of regret from both the Conservator and the Divisional Forest Officer to whom he was directly subordinate. His selection for filling up the vacancy caused by the reduction of Mr. Baptista was a fortunate one, as the Sukkur Division is the largest as well as the most difficult one to manage. Above all, his work in connection with the prosecution of Forester Sanwal Khan, recorded in paragraph 137, requires to be specially noticed. The case was a very intricate one, and the intelligence and conscientious zeal he displayed in preparing the evidence and exhibits evoked unqualified praise from the Government Pleader who represented the Crown at the trial before the Sessions Court and also from the Public Prosecutor in Sind who conducted the appeal before the Sadar Court. The patience he exhibited during the course of the trial, when he was subjected to a severe cross-examination lasting for two days and when the pleader for the defence made an unwarranted attack on his personal character, also commanded respect.

144. Messrs. O. H. L. Napier and Shaukiram Pribdas have managed their respective charges with care and foresight.

GENERAL REMARKS. -

145. The Circle being a compact one and means of locomotion by land and water not wanting, I was able to inspect almost all the forests with comparative facility. In the Deputy Conservator's tour. Sukkur and Naushahro Divisions, I noticed that the rules and orders for the acquisition of new accretions thrown up by the river, framed and issued from time to time by successive Commissioners, have generally been applied in years gone by to the detriment of the forest area. But this condition of things has been changed by the promulgation of the Circular issued by Mr. James in August 1894, and which has been referred to in paragraph 15 of the Progress Report of the Sind Circle for the year 1893-94. It has to be noted that these orders do not find favour with the Revenue officers of the very two districts—Upper Sind Frontier and Shikarpur—in which it was the custom formerly to treat the Forest Department in this matter with little or no consideration.

146. It is to be regretted that no steps have yet been taken to constitute the areas notified under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, in November 1891 Reserved Forests in the Thar and Parkar District. Thar and Parkar District. The area of the land is 186 square miles, and they are capable of yielding a large quantity of fuel for the Railway, as experimental cuttings made in 1892 by Forest officers showed that an outturn of about 3,000 cubic feet per acre was obtained from some of the "Dhaka" numbers. The importance, therefore, of bringing such a valuable State property under rational management cannot be underrated. Now that the Hyderabad-Umarkot Railway is to be extended across the Sind desert and the Kotri-Rohri line is under construction, it is absolutely necessary that an adequate establishment should be maintained and effective control introduced in these forests for the purpose of keeping up a cheap and permanent supply of fuel to meet the requirements of both the Railways. Unless exploitation is carried on systematically and works of improvement and reproduction are undertaken under intelligent management without loss of time, it will be found impossible later on to work them with advantage.

147. The external relations of the Department have been on the whole very satisfactory as the following extracts from two External relations. of the Divisional reports show :—

Mr. Ryan, commenting on the forest offences tried by Magistrates in the Jerruck Division, records :

“—but it ought not to be omitted from mention that the Assistant Collector, “Shahbandar, Mr. Lawrence, I. C. S., and the Mukhtyarkar of “Mirpur Batora, Mr. Rochiram, rendered the Department consider-